was thought appropriate to set up a separate body to carry on the project launched by the CBSE. Therefore, an autonomous organisation called the National Open School (NOS) was established on 23-11-1989 to cater to the educational needs of school drop-outs working adults, house-wives and socially disadvantaged sections at the school stage through distance and Open Learning System. During the year 1993-94, 64953 students were enrolled by NOS in its various courses of studies.

Protection of caves in Maharashtra

1789. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the caves near Nasik in Maharashtra popularly known as Pandav Lena are under purview of Archaeological department:

(b) whether Archaeological department has granted permission for blasting operations on the hills, on which the caves are located;

(c) if not, what action Government propose to take against the blasting operations on the hills; and

(d) whether Government will bring about statute for protecting surrounding of Archaeological monuments preventing blasting, digging etc?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The matter is being referred to the State Government to withdraw the permission, if granted, keeping in view the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

(d) There is already a provision in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 to protect the surrounding of monuments preventing blasting, digging, etc.

Meetings of ISCE

1790. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3396 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th December, 1993 and state:

(a) the names and designation of the Central and State Government representatives who did take part in the meetings of the Council for Indian School Certificate Examination held in 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(b) the details of each meetings;

(c) whether the Council did approve the income and expenditure account of the Council for the above period; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any discrepancy or mistake has been brought to the notice of the members by the concerned authority?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KM. SELJA): (a) The information furnished by the Council for Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) is given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(b) Various administrative, establishment, academic and financial matters pertaining to the Council were discussed in those meetings.

(c) The audited statements of Accounts for the years 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 were adopted in the meetings held during the years from 1991 to 1993.

(d) No, Sir.